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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/853,760	05/14/2001	Pertti Tormala	2880/347	6881

23838 7590 10/03/2002

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EXAMINER

PRIDDY, MICHAEL B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3732

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/853,760	TORMALA ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Michael B Priddy	3732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 8 requires the structure of the fastener of claim 1 in line 9 after having already recited portions of the structure of the fastener of claim 1. It is therefore unclear whether the shaft, for example, of line 3 of claim 8 is required in addition to the shaft included within the limitations of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 8, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Törmälä et al. (WO99/49792). Törmälä et al. teach a fastener having a shaft 1 comprising a proximal portion 2 with a tapered, curved end and a distal portion 3 having protrusions 4 with proximal surfaces for arresting movement of the shaft in the proximal direction and distal surfaces to permit the movement of the shaft in the distal direction. Furthermore, the protrusions 4 may protrude from longitudinal ridges R

extending along the length of the shaft 1 as shown in Fig. 3A. The fastener "may be manufactured of a polymer or a polymeric compound which is substantially (bio)absorbable (resorbable) after implantation in tissue and contains an oriented reinforcing structure or the like of a polymer or polymeric compound or ceramic bioactive glass compound." A method for using the fastener to repair a torn meniscus is depicted in Figs. 8A-8D and 9-11 and shows the fastener as being completely within the meniscus. In such a position, the proximal surface of the proximal portion 2 would resist proximal movement of the fastener.

Claims 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hart et al. (US 5,843,084). Hart et al. teach a surgical fastening system including a fastener 5 including a shaft 10 comprising a proximal portion 35 with a tapered, curved end 60 and a distal portion 30 having protrusions 40 with proximal surfaces 50 configured to arrest the movement of the shaft in the proximal direction and distal surfaces 45 configured to permit the movement of the shaft in the distal direction. In the procedure illustrated in Figs. 24-28, the fastener is inserted across a rupture in a meniscus and the only the curved end of the fastener is positioned on the surface of the meniscus. An alternate embodiment of the fastener is depicted in Figs. 33 & 34 and is used in a procedure to secure a mesh to tissue wherein the tapered curved end contacts the mesh.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated Tormala et al. (WO 99/01071) by Tormala et al. (WO 99/01071). Tormala et al. teach fastener having a shaft 1 comprising a proximal portion 2 with a tapered, curved end and a distal portion

3 having protrusions 4 with proximal surfaces for arresting movement of the shaft in the proximal direction and distal surfaces to permit the movement of the shaft in the distal direction. As shown in Fig. 5, the curved, tapered proximal end also may include protuberances having proximal surfaces configured to arrest the movement of the shaft in the proximal direction.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lin et al. and Feagin et al. have been cited to show closely related surgical fasteners which include features to reduce the possibility of the fasteners backing out.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael B. Priddy whose telephone number is (703) 308-8620. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (703) 308-2582. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3732

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Michael B. Priddy
Michael B. Priddy
September 27, 2002

Kevin Shaver 9/30/02
KEVIN SHAYER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700